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Message Text

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42
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 IGA-01 ACDA-10

OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /117 W
---------- 030738
R 130931Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1578
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL CHIANGMAI
AMCONSUL UDORN
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USSAG NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4179

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINT, TH
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT SELECTS KHUKRIT PROMOT TO BE PRIME MINISTER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: BANGKOK 4032

1. IN A BRIEF 15 MINUTE MEETING MARCH 13 THE LOWER HOUSE OF
PARLIAMENT SELECTED SOCIAL ACTION PARTY LEADER KHUKRIT PRAMOT
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AS PRIME MINISTER. SOMKHIT SISANGKHON. LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST

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PARTY OF THAILAND (SPT) WAS THE ONLY OTHER CANDIDATE. SPT MP PREM MALAKUN NA AYUTTHAYA NOMINATED KHUKRIT AND SPT MP SUTHAT NGOENMUN NOMINATED SOMKHIT. KHUKRIT RECEIVED 135. VOTES (OUT OF 253. PRESENT) AND SOMKHIT 59 VOTES IN A SHOW-OF-HANDS BALLOT.

2. THE NEXT STEP WILL BE FOR HOUSE SPEAKER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT TO SUBMIT KHUKRIT'S NAME TO THE KING FOR APPROVAL. AFTER THAT, KHUKRIT WILL ANNOUNCE HIS CABINET AND PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENTFOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK.

3. FOLLOWING THE VOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER, A CONTROVERSY OVER THE COUNTING OF VOTES ERUPTED BECAAUSE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MPS VOTING AND ABSTAINING EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF MPS PRESENT. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAL PRASIT SISUCHAT RESIGNED IMMEDIATELY OVER CRITICISM OF THE MIS-COUNT. THE CONTROVERSY WILL NOT, APPARENTLY. AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTING HOWEVER.

4. AS OF 1500 MARCH 13. ABOUT ONE TO TWO THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS UNDER DISSIDENT POLICE MAJOR ANAN SENAKHAN CONTINUED AGITATING OUT-SIDE THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING FOR A DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT. SINCE PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT HAD ALREADY PUBLICY REJECTED ANAN'S CALL FOR A DISSOLUTION, THE DEMONSTRATION IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE EFFECT.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO04179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750088-0255
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750356/aaaabxuv.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 4032
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENT SELECTS KHUKRIT PROMOT TO BE PRIME MINISTER CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (KHUKRIT PRAMOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006